UNLIMITED INNOVATIONS. 
LIMITED FUNDS. 
A PLAN TO KEEP PACE.

The Reality

The world of information technology is fast-paced. Those with the ability to take advantage of the latest innovations are recognized as cutting-edge thinkers embracing the future.

For Clemson University, our desire for top-20 status must also reflect a desire to forge ahead with the best resource tools. Our ability to gain information is not only crucial to our work and its impact on the world; it is also crucial to our ability to attract the best and brightest students and faculty.

The Need

Current library funding is not able to keep up with the spiraling inflation costs to acquire valuable information for student and faculty research. The latest information technology and new publishing models are expensive, and their arrival in the library marketplace is unpredictable.

A Solution – The Library of the Future Endowment

In order to “pilot” or test new resources, Dean Kay Wall established the Library of the Future Endowment as a means to seize opportunities by sampling new and innovative ideas to support students and faculty without risking current library resources to do so.

Library faculty and staff offer proposals for use of the endowment to implement a new service or resource. Approved proposals are funded for up to three years through the Library of the Future Endowment, after which time successful proposals are then incorporated into the existing library budget. By using the endowment to test-drive ideas before redistributing continued library general funds, the Library can take opportunities designed to improve library operations and resources in a less risky fashion.
It’s Working

A recent example using this approach was the acquisition, on a limited basis, of the Swank Digital Campus for film studies students. Since purchase of the product for the entire university community would be expensive, private dollars were committed to test the product to determine its value within a defined population before committing its funds for long-term support.

The Will to Lead: A Campaign for Clemson

Because students and faculty are at the heart of everything we do at Clemson, our support for them is vital. The Will to Lead campaign is an effort to raise more than $600 million in support of Clemson students and faculty by July 2012.

This campaign raises funds to recruit and retain the most promising students and to attract and keep leading teachers and researchers. It also funds initiatives such as the Library of the Future Endowment that help to make a Clemson education exceptional, that build a knowledge-based economy and that drive innovation.

It’s all about building potential in people — students and faculty who will be the leading thinkers in the 21st century and carry on the intellectual and economic development envisioned by founder Thomas Green Clemson.

An Invitation to Invest

By providing a funding source for testing ideas and new resources, Clemson University Libraries are able to be more nimble and responsive in a rapidly changing world. Approaching the cutting edge in terms of library services and resources is fundamental to Clemson’s success.

We invite you to invest in the Library of the Future Endowment. As part of the Will to Lead campaign, your gift will help Clemson continue to explore and research the best resources to attract and retain what are, essentially, our own best resources: our students and faculty.

To make a gift or for more information, please contact:
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